

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3142

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 3036

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ, US

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO AT UN

REF: STATE 229493

1. RAISED QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BENHABYLES OCTOBER 2. SAID THIS WAS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR US AND WE WISHED BE CERTAIN ALGERIANS AWARE OF OUR POSITION. LIMA CONFERENCE RESOLUTION HAD CALLED FOR DECOLONIZATION OF ISLAND, BUT IT WAS NOT IN FACT A COLONY. IT WAS SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY. UN HAD APPROVED THIS STATUS IN 1953. DEBATE ON ISLAND WAS NOT OVER INDEPENDENCE BUT OVER STATEHOOD VS COMMONWEALTH. BOTH IN 1952 AND 1967 PUERTO RICANS HAD OPTED FOR COMMONWEALTH STATUS. THE SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE PARTY WAS NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. IT HAD WON 4 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTIONS. GAVE HIM AIDE MEMOIRE SETTING FORTH POINTS MADE IN REFTTEL OMITTING LANGUAGE ABOUT EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. BENHABYLES SAID HE REALIZED PUERTO RICO WAS NOT A COLONY IN STRICT SENSE OF TERM AND THAT IT WAS A SOCIAL RATHER THAN A POLITICAL PROBLEM. WHEN ALGRIANS SPOKE OF DECOLONIZATION THEY HAD AFRICA IN MIND PRIMARILY. AS FAR
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AS PUERTO RICO CONCERNED, HE SAID, "DOCTRINALLY WE WILL

BE THERE BUT WE WILL NOT BE MILITANT. PUERTO RICO SHOULD
CREATE NO MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN US."

3. I SAID I HOPED THAT WAS THE CASE.PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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